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applied to a neck-tie of a particular kind worn by the Croats. The word has kept in Picard the same gender which it had in French before its latest change in meaning. JOUANCOUX<sup>5</sup> finds the word used in the masculine in an inventory made at Amiens in 1670.

*gartjer*—Celtic *GÂR*. The word is also found in the masculine in FROISSART,<sup>6</sup> and JOUANCOUX also cites an example from the 'Evangiles des Quenouilles.'

*dẽ*—DENTEM. Many examples of its use in the masculine are cited by LITTRÉ from the twelfth to the fifteenth century. It is also used in the masculine in 'Aucassin et Nicolette' (xii, 22) and in the 'Roman de Carité' (iii, 8).

T. LOGIE.

Williams College.

#### SPANISH AMERICAN WORDS.

AN exhaustive and accurate study of the Spanish elements which have in this country entered our language, would be an appropriate task for some member of the American Dialect Society. This article may suggest something of the interest of the subject.

In the region of the Southwest, where the English civilization has not overpowered and nearly obliterated the Spanish civilization, the use of the Spanish language has had a decided influence on the English tongue and has added not a few words to our common speech. Here two dialects of the Spanish language have been spoken, and consequently the influence on our own language has arisen from two sources. The first source is the old Castilian language, still used by the few remaining aristocratic families of pure (?) blood. I say *old* Castilian, for several centuries of use in the provinces have changed it but little from the form in which it was introduced into the colonies from the continental Spanish. Even now it differs but little from modern continental Spanish, for the Spanish language, as compared with other modern languages, changes but little from century to century.

<sup>5</sup> 'Glossaire du Patois picard,' s. v.

<sup>6</sup> Cited by LITTRÉ, s. v.

Indeed we are told that the language spoken by the people in the rural districts of Old Spain is retained through its constant use in the commercial contact of these people with the better classes of the towns. However, it seems that the literary language of Old Spain has changed far more than the language of the provinces, and in an entirely different way. But this only illustrates a well-known law, that old forms of speech are retained in the colonies and remote parts of a nation, while more rapid changes are to be noted in the intelligent and progressive centres.

Thus, we find in the provinces that the *ll*-sound loses its force and is used as a long *i*-sound, or more properly as a long *i*-sound with a slight breaking. Also, that the *ñ*-sound so prominent in continental speech, is in the provinces suppressed to a smothered *n*-sound. Likewise the *b* is used interchangeably with *v*, with a tendency to substitute the *v* for the *b*. (It has been maintained that these changes are noticeable in a comparison of the language of the rural districts of Spain with those of the centres of intelligence.) The old Castilian families using this speech are rapidly disappearing from the country: their great estates have passed into the hands of others and their prominent position in society is gone.

It is chiefly through the second source, the Mexican dialect, that words have found their way into the common speech of our country. It is through the language of the common people, through the Spanish language clipped and degraded by the commingling of unlettered Spaniards with an inferior race, that words find their way into English. It was the policy of Spain to amalgamate conqueror and conquered into one homogeneous nationality, and the results of this attempt are plainly visible in the nature of the language produced. The Mexican dialect is quite extensively used in New Mexico and California by the great majority of the people of Spanish blood and their native converts to Christianity. This language is also quite commonly used as a matter of convenience by those associated in business with the Mexican race. But what concerns us most in the consideration of this topic is the fact that this dialect is furnishing the English language with words, some of

which are to be used as a matter of convenience for a time, and others to be permanently incorporated into our common speech. I will mention a few of the latter class which seem to admit of universal use and appear indispensable to an intelligent expression of thought; afterwards I shall refer to others in common use in certain sections of country by certain classes of people.

*Adobe.* Prominent in the first class is the word *adobe*, meaning sun-dried brick. The greater number of the primitive houses and public buildings of the Spanish colonists were constructed of this material. It is not uncommon to see these old buildings, some of them at present over a hundred years old. By those familiar with this style of architecture the word *adobe* is used without question as the only term that will exactly describe it. It is frequently used as a substantive, as "an old *adobe*."

*Cañon.* No other word will express just what the word *cañon* does, so long as the mountains on the western half of the continent retain their present structure. It is indispensable, for the words gulch, valley, gorge, fail to convey the exact meaning. It is of universal use as applied to a channel with high walls formed by an upheaval or by the erosion of water, or probably by both. Its specific meaning is apparent to one familiar with western mountains. In common speech it is frequently applied indiscriminately to a valley or gorge of any description whatever.

*Tules.* This is a common expression for a rush or water-reed that grows along the bays and rivers of California. The word was in common use by the Spanish population and has continued to be about the only designation for this species of rush. BRET HARTE in his 'An Apostle of the Tules' speaks of the "ague-haunted *tules*."

*Bonanza.* It is difficult to determine whether this much-used word will obtain a permanent place in our language. It found a ready use in mining times as an expression of good fortune in the discovery of a rich mine. Originally it meant "fair weather at sea," but now it is applied indiscriminately to a treasure of any sort. Its specific application

to the great silver mines of Nevada has tended to give it a prominence in use.

*Fandango.* This word has been long used in America. It is the name of a dance brought into the West Indies by the negroes of Guinea. It has been frequently used to designate any sort of a dance of a low order, but should be applied to a dance of the common people written in three-eight time. The dance is practiced to such an extent by the Spanish-Americans that it has been nationalized.

As the Spanish and English speaking people mingled at a time when the tending of flocks and herds was the chief occupation, many of the new words adopted refer to this industry. A few of this class will be mentioned.

*Corral.* This word originally meant a circular yard formed by setting posts in the ground and fastening them together with thongs of raw-hide. The *corral* is essential to the herder as a place where his stock may be collected for the purpose of protection or for successful handling. If the *rancharo* wishes to capture a certain horse to ride, the whole band is driven into the *corral* and the *vacquero* lassoes the one desired with his *lariat*. The *corral* is one of the first structures built by the herder on his arrival in a new territory. The farmer of the far west never says "cow-pen," "barn-yard" or "farm-yard," he says *corral*. The word is applied indiscriminately to any small enclosure for stock.

*Vaquero.* according to its strict etymology, means 'cow herder' or in more common English, 'cow-boy.' However, this is not its better use, although it is frequently so applied. The *vacquero* is pre-eminently a horseman and a horse trainer. He is frequently employed to tend stock, but his chief business is to manage wild horses or to tame *brancos*. The horses of a *rancho* frequently run at will, unfettered by bit, bridle or even halter, until they are desired for use. Here is the difficult work of the *vacquero*. He drives the band into a corral, captures the one to be ridden, succeeds in getting a bridle or *jácquima* on his head, blindfolds the animal, puts the saddle on, mounts for the ride, and then removes the blind. Then begins a series of antics on the part of the animal, and the rider is fortunate if he keep his seat through

them all. This process must be repeated from day to day until the animal is domesticated. Sometimes the *vacquero* finds steady employment at a single *rancho*, and sometimes he goes from one to the other plying his trade as there is need.

*Ranch* is from the word *rancho* and was first used in connection with the land-grants to the Spaniards in the Indies. It is of Spanish American origin. The word *ranch* needs no comment. It sounds a trifle inelegant in contrast with the long accustomed word 'farm,' but it has succeeded in entirely replacing this word in many sections of the west. It is doubtful if it will retain this prominence as the large ranches are broken up into small farms and a diversity of agriculture is introduced.

*Rodeo*. It is in connection with the rearing of stock that this word is commonly used. In pastoral territories all stock runs somewhat at large, consequently the property of different individuals is widely scattered and commingled. To sort the stock and accredit each owner with his property, the annual or semi-annual *rodeo* or "round up" is held. Each owner sends one or more representatives to the *rodeo*. The cattle are "bunched" in the open field, and the *vacqueros* proceed to separate from the band each owner's stock. This requires great skill of the horsemen. In the olden time a judge (*huez de campo*) presided over the field-assembly and judged of the rights of each according to customary law. The word *rodeo* comes from the Spanish *rodear*, 'to surround, to compass.' Its vulgar pronunciation is "rodeer."

*Loco* is a good old Spanish word meaning insane, crazy or crack-brained. It is specifically applied to horses and cattle afflicted with a strange disease accompanied with variations of insane and idiotic symptoms. It is a common belief that the disease is caused by eating a plant called "loco-weed," of the family *Leguminosae*, genus *Astragalus*. But this has not been proved, and there are many different theories concerning it, some attributing the cause to the use of bad water, some to poor food, and others to too much food, etc. The animal afflicted with the disease stops, trembles, staring all the while in an insane mood, snorts and springs sudden-

ly to one side as if dodging a blow. It apparently sees things that are not, and is a victim to strange hallucinations. Becoming useless, it is turned out to take the chances of partial recovery or final death. The term has a wide application in common use. A person not quite sound in mind or rational in thought is said to be *locoed*, or is "loco," as the term is frequently applied. It is quite curious that the plant is also called "rattle-weed" from its peculiar properties, and that the term "rattled" is derived from the idea of its effect on animals. Consequently the word "rattled" designates a mild form of locoism.

*Bronco* is the name applied to a wild or untamed animal, as a *bronco* colt or a *bronco* horse. Sometimes it is applied colloquially to an unruly boy.

To pass to the words of the second class, there are a multitude of those which are used by persons of certain sections or by special classes. I will mention a few: *sombrero* 'hat,' *lariat* 'raw-hide rope,' *jácquima* 'head-stall' or 'halter,' *reata* 'rawhide rope,' *hacienda* 'estate,' *compañero* 'companion,' *vara*, a Spanish yard-stick, etc.

There are many short phrases in common speech which are temporary in use, such as *mucho frio*, *mucho caliente*, *poco tiempo*, *muchas gracias*, *si Señor*, etc. Their chief influence is exercised in detracting from the use of good English. But to the student of institutions nothing is more interesting than the names of places which so copiously illustrate the former domination of another race. As the Roman, Saxon, Dane and Norman have left their monuments in England, so we find in the names of the mountains, rivers, towns and political divisions of the land evidences of a preceding civilization. In most cases the names have been carefully selected and doubtless will remain unchanged. The country is still full of the names of the saints, patrons of early expeditions and enterprises. Santa Barbara, Santa Fe, San Diego, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Sacramento bring vividly before us the labors of the religious orders and of the *padres* who attempted to establish a civilization in a new land. Pioneers they were who broke the virgin soil and settled a new state. So too in *Alameda*

'the grove,' *Fresno* 'the alder,' *Alcatraz* 'the pelican,' *Lobos* 'the wolves,' and in a thousand other words, we have evidences of a Spanish nomenclature without a Spanish civilization. Likewise *Puebla* reminds of the village common, and *alcalde* of the chief officer of the town. We need not omit from this medley of words "Monte del Diablo," and the legend of the appearance of the wearer of the cloven hoof, with the tradition of strange sights accompanied by the noise of clanking chains.

F. W. BLACKMAR.

University of Kansas.

### THE FRENCH TENSES.

*Grammaire de la langue française* d'après de nouveaux principes concernant les temps des verbes et leur emploi par le docteur I.-M. RABBINOWICZ. 2<sup>m</sup>e édition. Paris: Bouillon. 1889. Svo, pp. xxxi, 207.

*Tout est dit et l'on vient trop tard après deux cents ans qu'il y a des hommes et qui . . . écrivent des grammaires françaises.* Such is the natural feeling on opening the 'Grammaire de la langue française d'après de nouveaux principes concernant les temps des verbes et leur emploi,' by Dr. RABBINOWICZ. But a careful perusal of the work has convinced me that it is truly entitled to the claim set forth,—that the element of novelty is indeed present (albeit there is some difficulty in detecting the principles), and that if the author has embodied in his other works—ranging as they do from Grammars of the French, Latin, and Hebrew tongues to Scripture History, *via* treatises on English pronunciation, on the civil and criminal legislation of the Talmud, and on "Les Poisons de Mainonide"—as much observation and acumen as in his "Grammaire française," he is indeed a conspicuous illustration of the great powers and versatility of the race to which he belongs.

Dr. RABBINOWICZ, although claiming novelty only for his theory of the use of verbs, has included his treatment of this subject in a complete grammar. The wisdom of this course is hardly obvious, as on all but the verbs he has little to say that is not far more exhaustively treated by other grammarians, with here and there a clever way of putting a

rule (p. 130, 1st par.); here and there an innovation that is scarcely an improvement, such as the substitution of the terms *ante-verbal* and *post-verbal* for *conjunctif* and *disjunctif* (pp. 57-58); here and there a totally inadequate exposition, as in the case of the declension of the relative pronouns (pp. 60-61). But, with the exception of the Appendix (on the orthography of the nasal syllable *ã*, and on the orthographic doubling of consonants), which seems to me of small usefulness, it is by his treatment of the verbs that our author would be judged, and to that we will turn at once.

The first thing that meets the reader is a complete remodelling of the nomenclature of the French tenses, founded on uses of them that are not covered by the theory implied in their names. Because the tense called *plus-que-parfait*, for instance, is not unfrequently used without the past action to which it is prior being stated, Dr. RABBINOWICZ rejects this name. Again, he is at a loss to account for the fact that the tense named *passé défini* in French is called "past indefinite" in Italian, and he might have added in Greek.—Now it does not take a John Stuart Mill to be dissatisfied with names, since their connotation is ever changing: but it is well to make sure that you realize what can be said in their defence before you throw them out, otherwise it might be argued that a fuller understanding would have won them more regard. The names that obtain in French grammars for the tenses of verbs are unsatisfactory, mainly because they are too special to the French language and do not point clearly enough to the correspondence of the French tenses with the tenses of other languages—a thoroughly characteristic French defect; but that they have a very definite and clear meaning must be understood by whoever wishes to reform them, if he would not weaken his entire argument. Thus, Dr. RABBINOWICZ would have improved his position, if he had shown that he fully realized the force of the present nomenclature, and yet was equal to the suggestion of a better: if, for instance, he had given a more substantial reason for his dissatisfaction than the following (p. 4, note):

Les grammairiens français donnent au présent-parfait le nom de passé indéfini. Les